



United Veterans Committee of Colorado

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Mr. Jay Bobick, Chairman
State Veterans Home Commission
Department of Human Services
Denver, CO

October 12, 2012

Dear Chairman Bobick:

As you know, the United Veterans Committee of Colorado Executive Committee recently updated its 2013 state legislative goals to include: "Support funding to restore the historic buildings at the State Veterans Center at Homelake, and for the expansion of the Homelake cemetery." It has come to our attention that the veterans of the San Luis Valley are anxiously awaiting the expansion of the cemetery, and that there are issues preventing this from taking place.

Lyle Dye, Chairman of The Homelake Advisory Board Cemetery Committee, stated that the veterans in that area would like the state to consider the northeast and northwest corners as existing cemetery, and the area across the service road as space for cemetery expansion. The committee has asked the state to compromise and accept the sketches that the state historical fund has on file since 1995 showing the cemetery is rectangular not rounded, to include the two corners allowing for 80-100 more plots. The Department of Human Services has submitted a plan to do this and other expansion work at a cost of \$505,750. Although this would meet state requirements for expansion and construction, the price tag can also prevent the work from getting accomplished, which is perplexing to the veterans.

UVC is asking that the State Veterans Home Commission work with DHS to find a workable solution to the issue, and by March 2013 present a workable plan that will meet the veterans' needs for Homelake Cemetery expansion. The State Veterans Center at Homelake, to include the cemetery, is a very valuable resource for the veterans of the state, and particularly for the veterans in the San Luis Valley. UVC encourages the Commission and DHS to do everything necessary to find suitable resolution to this issue for the best interests of Colorado veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph Bozella", is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ralph P. Bozella

Cc: Reggie Bicha, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services
H. Mike Edwards, Adjutant General, State of Colorado
Viki Manley, Director Office of State Veterans Homes
David Archer, Sr. Policy Advisor to Governor Hickenlooper
Lyle Dye, Chairman Homelake Cemetery Committee